

In response, Applicants first note that no IDS was filed on March 16, 2004 in the current Application. An IDS was filed on March 1, 2004 and the Examiner has confirmed that the Requirement for Information incorrectly listed the date of the IDS.

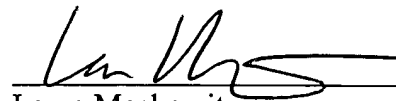
Second, Applicants note that a copy of the corresponding Japanese Patent Office Office Action, dated December 2, 2003 and an English language translation of the pertinent portions thereof which cites the filed documents and discusses their relevance as found by the Japanese Patent Office was enclosed and filed with the March 1, 2004 IDS. A copy of the English language translation, and an OIPE-stamped copy of the March 1, 2004 filing receipt are attached hereto.

Therefore, in view of the above, Applicants submit that the information requested in the Requirement for Information was already provided to the Examiner on March 1, 2004.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

No fee is believed to be due to this response. However, the USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: October 12, 2005